

CLAIMS

1) Espresso coffee machine comprising a reservoir for the water (20), a pump (21) for delivering the said water to a boiler (24), a hot water supply unit (2, 102, 122; 4, 304), and filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103) for housing a portion of ground coffee (16), preferably pre-packaged, and provided with coffee delivery means (201; 203), characterized in that the said supply unit (2, 102, 122; 4, 304) and the said filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103) are coupled together with a seal and the trajectory of the coupling movement lies on a plane substantially perpendicular to the median plane of coupling of the said supply unit (2, 102, 122; 4, 304) and the said filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103), the facing surfaces of the said supply unit (2, 102, 122; 4, 304) and the said filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103) coming into contact only at the time of their coupling.

2. Coffee machine according to Claim 1, characterized in that the median plane of coupling of the said supply unit (2, 102, 122) and the said filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103) is perpendicular to the base plane of the machine body.

3. Coffee machine according to Claim 1, characterized in that the median plane of coupling of the said supply unit (2, 102, 122) and the said filter holder means (1, 301; 3, 103) is inclined at an angle ranging from 10° to 30° with respect to the longitudinal axis of the said machine.

4. Coffee machine according to Claim 2 or 3, in which the said filter holder means comprise a hatch (1; 3) hinged at one end to the body of the said machine, the opposite end of the hatch being provided with

releasable coupling means (101, 121, 131) designed to be coupled to suitable coupling means (302, 312; 204) positioned on the wall of the body of the said machine.

5. Coffee machine according to Claim 4, characterized in that switch means (25, 26) interacting with the said releasable coupling means (101, 121, 131) of the said hatch (1; 3) are provided in the proximity of the coupling means (302, 312; 204) positioned on the wall of the body of the said machine.

6. Coffee machine according to Claim 4 or 5, in which the said hatch (3) is hinged releasably to the body of the said machine.

7. Coffee machine according to any one of the preceding Claims 4 to 6, in which the said filter holder means comprise a filter holder (103; 301), comprising a substantially cylindrical cavity (123; 311) provided with a radial hole (321; 133) communicating with the coffee delivery means (201; 203).

8. Coffee machine according to Claim 7, in which the said filter holder is provided with means (361, 721; 113) for assisting with the extraction of the said ground coffee cartridge (16).

9. Coffee machine according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the said filter holder (301) is provided with means (401) for cleaning the coffee delivery means (201).

10. Coffee machine according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, in which the said filter holder (103) is permanently connected and preferably made in one piece with the said hatch (3).

11. Coffee machine according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, in which the said filter holder (301) is inserted movably into the said hatch (1), on two tubular guides

(701), each provided with an inclined surface (721), interacting with two apertures (361) formed in the base of the cavity (311) of the said filter holder (301), the said filter holder being moved along the said guides (701) by means (422) associated with the wall of the body of the said machine.

12. Machine according to Claim 11, in which a rod (401) parallel to the said guides (701) is inserted into the said hatch (1) and passes with a seal into the said filter holder (301) through a hole (331) which is radial with respect to the cavity (311) of the filter holder, and emerges through the hole (321) for communication with the supply means (201).